

Appl. No. : 11/736,067
Filed : December 15, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are struck-through. Please cancel Claims 5, 13, 14, and 16.

1 (currently amended): A method for reducing wrinkles on skins of a human, comprising:
~~applying to the skins of a candidate skin of the human a sponge protein hydrolysate which is a product by acidic hydrolysis of sponge skeleton fibers (spongin fibers) obtained from refined sponges as the raw material without using a protein hydrolase, in an amount effective to reduce wrinkles on the-skills skin~~, said product having (i) a molecular weight of less than 5,000, with light coloring, and (ii) a human cell growth stimulating activity on human fibroblasts.

2 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the sponge protein is a sponge protein hydrolysate solution.

3 (original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the sponge protein solution has a concentration of about 0.01% to about 15% by weight.

4 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the sponge protein hydrolysate is administrated in the form of cosmetics.

5 (canceled)

6-10 (canceled)

11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the sponge protein hydrolysate is a product of hydrolysis carried out using an acidic solution in which the pH is adjusted to 1 using electrolytic acidic water with a pH of less than 2.5 and an oxidation-reduction potential of more than 1,000 mV admixed with an acid to obtain sponge proteins having a molecular weight of less than 5,000, using sponge skeleton fibers (spongin fibers) refined from sponges as the raw material.

12 (original): The method according to Claim 11, wherein the sponge protein hydrolysate is a lightly colored solution having a concentration of 1 to 30% by weight.

13-14 (canceled)

15 (canceled)

16 (canceled)

17-19 (canceled)

Appl. No. : **11/736,067**
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20 (original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the solution has a concentration of about 0.1% to 15% by weight.

21 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the spongin fibers are obtained from sponges of *Spongia* which belongs to Porifera.